

A P R E L E C T I O N .

A PRELECTION,

(2)

INTRODUCTORY TO

THE MEDICAL SESSION OF 1855-56,

DELIVERED BEFORE

The University of Dublin.

BY

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A PRELECTION.

I HAVE been desired by the Provost and Senior Fellows to open the present Medical Session by a public Address. This proceeding, which is a novel one, is not without its meaning. It implies the wish of the Heads of the University to make known, through their proper officer, the steps which they have taken to promote the Schools of Medicine and of Surgery within their walls, and the views which they entertain as to the advancement, not only of the Faculty to which these schools belong, but of Medical Education in its broadest sense.

From an early period the University system in these countries, a constitution mainly borrowed from that of the Italian schools, implied the conferring of degrees of two kinds: first, in Arts, in which there were the lower and higher degrees; and next, in some faculty requiring a special education or set of exercises; so that the student, having first taken at least the lower degree in Arts, and having thereby acquired a competent knowledge of the literature

and science of the day, could proceed to qualify in Divinity, Physic, or Law, as his wishes might direct him. No degree in these faculties was attainable, unless the candidate had already graduated in Arts.

These ancient regulations, or principles, have been long followed out in the old Universities of Great Britain and Ireland; and, although of late years they have been to a certain degree modified, let us hope that they will remain, if not absolutely in their original form, yet preserved in their essence or spirit. A great principle is implied, a great truth is foreshadowed in them, namely, that for the highest exercise of any one function or calling, it is above all things necessary that those who are to follow it should have had means placed at their disposal for the discipline and the enlargement of their minds. There is implied in these regulations that wise and wholesome doctrine,—that an exclusive education must always be an imperfect one. A purely special education, from which everything is excluded but matters ancillary to the calling or pursuit which a man is to follow, must fail in elevating the profession to which it is applied. Such an education might produce a Clergy skilled in polemics, if you will, but wanting in higher qualities, wanting in large views, in general knowledge, and in charity; a Clergy skilled to defend, but unfitted to adorn, their position. It might produce an ingenious and unscrupulous Lawyer, but not an enlightened Judge or Lawgiver. It might produce a Physician or Sur-

geon, with just as much knowledge as would enable him to follow his business as the mechanic follows his trade, but without the success and without the honour which the skilled and upright artisan can claim. But not so were trained in Divinity, a Pearson, a Bull, a Beveridge, or a Butler; not so in Law, a Blackstone, a Mansfield, a Romilly, or a Plunket; or in Medicine, a Sydenham, a Meade, or a Graves. Exceptions will occur to many of you, but indeed they prove the rule.

On the other hand, it is not to be held that the system of the old Universities was opposed to special education. For they have not omitted to make provision for it, as the requirements of the time demanded. But for centuries they have insisted, that the general should precede or accompany the special education. In these times we should see that the importance of this early training in general knowledge is not too much overlooked. Do not be misled by the opinion, that a University education will do nothing more than give you a certain proficiency in Classical literature, in the study of Logics and Ethics, or in Mathematical or Physical Science. If it does these things for you, you will be great gainers, for there is no one branch of professional life in which these studies will not prove the most signal helps to you. But it has other, and equally important results: it enforces respect for the ordinances of religion; it habituates the mind to the humility of prayer; it enlarges it by communion with

contemporaries who are preparing for their varied walks in life; and it excites the best ambition, by presenting so many examples of successful exertion. Lastly, it serves you by increasing your self-respect; for the humblest member of our profession, who has been thus educated, will feel, should he meet the mitred prelate, or the ermined judge, that in Academic rank he is not their inferior. Our profession, Gentlemen, has long been in an anomalous position. While its more successful members may attain wealth, and rank, and consideration, the mass is not on an equal footing with that of the Church or the Bar. I will here only indicate one of the many causes of this state of things: it is, that so many of us have received but the special or exclusive education. It is not so in the Church, or at the Bar. And the evil has, in part, arisen from the fact, that in former times the study of Medicine was not sufficiently fostered by the old Universities. The teaching of Medicine passed in a great measure into private hands, and licensing bodies sprang up, who were content with the merely special education. The result is natural. Too often the student, while yet a boy, commonly uneducated even for his age, and knowing nothing of the world or of the requirements of society, is set to work in the dissecting-room, or to sit on the benches of a medical theatre, to listen to lecture after lecture on topics exclusively professional, until the time comes when he is enabled to pass an examination on purely Medical subjects.

At the end of the fourth year of study the license is obtained, and he enters the world unprepared to take his place in society, or support the rank of his profession. He may be, and generally is, the son of a gentleman, but he has not received the education of a gentleman. Such a man is often soured by finding himself deficient in the knowledge which society requires. He rails at the treatment of his profession by the public, while he should feel that much of what he complains of is but the result of the vicious system to which he was a victim. Yet such a man is better off than he who has sprung from the lower ranks, for the latter has never been afforded the sole means by which he could take and keep his place. For he often wants those refinements of feeling and thought which are really hereditary, and which might, to a certain degree, stand him instead of a proper mental culture. To him the want of a liberal education is a bar which it is hardly possible to get over.

I can speak on this subject with confidence, for I have now been more than twenty-five years occupied in the teaching of Clinical Medicine, and I know that some of our students have obtained their diplomas from various licensing bodies, without possessing the knowledge indispensable to a common clerk. I shall not soon forget an observation made to me by a gentleman, then high in office, and head of one of the departments of the public service. "We get," he said, "from Ireland some of our very

best and very worst men." I asked him in what the second class were wanting; he answered, "In conduct and in common letters." Gentlemen,—you have adopted Medicine as your profession. Let me ask you, have you thought on the nature of the road you are about to travel,—do you expect to move onwards as on a beaten path, like machines, and not like men? Do you look at your profession as a mere means of livelihood, to be reached by a course that can only lead to mediocrity, or will you strive to fit yourselves for the highest place, by a full moral and mental culture? I trust you will. We hear of our profession being over-stocked, but remember that saying of Swift's, that "in every crowd there is room, over their heads." By these means alone will you obtain self-respect. Avoid the lower, qualify for the higher aim. Reject as false, and utterly mischievous, whatever you may be told as to the inutility of a broad and liberal extra-professional education; you are not going to a trade, but to become members of an honourable profession, and, therefore, it behoves you to consider whether you will sacrifice your chances of rank and success, by following those bad advisers who tell you, for their own purposes, that an exclusive education will serve your purpose. I warn you against such doctrine. A few years will show you that it is contrary to the spirit of the age. Do not believe that, with your minds unopened, unrefined by literature, untrained to accurate reasoning, with your

tastes undeveloped, and your habits untutored,—the mere fulfilment of your medical or surgical curriculum will qualify you to support the honour of your profession, or place you in the class of the workers and pioneers of a progressive science. No, you will not go to a profession as an ignorant man to a handicraft; you are to be associated with men of education,—therefore, you must not be inferior to them in education; you are to support the dignity of a noble profession,—therefore, your mental powers, and your moral perceptions, must be cultivated and exalted; you are to be placed in a position, of all others the most fruitful, not only in opportunities of doing wrong to your brother in the dark, but of practising on the credulity of mankind,—therefore you must cherish the most delicate sense of honour, and so train yourselves, that your conduct shall be based, not so much on the fear of the consequences of wrong, as upon the perfect love of that which is right.

But let me not be understood as conveying any slight on the many members of our profession who have been condemned to the mere education of the curriculum. This, however, I will say, that their character has been made by one branch of study. It was not made by the practice of repeated anatomical dissections, nor by listening to triple courses of lectures. It was made elsewhere. It was made in the hospital. In its wards, the student learns that which cannot be taught in the dissecting-

room, or in the theatre. Here—where disease in every shape, and the suffering of his fellow-man in every degree, surround him, and mutely, but imperiously, ask for help—he begins to do for himself that which he had been hindered doing before. He learns to reason, to teach himself, to act, and to discover. But he does much more. The kindlier feelings of his heart are stirred, and he becomes so trained to works of charity and mercy, that their practice is at last a second nature. He may be rude, unlettered, but he not only bears with him into after-life that which is the great characteristic of our profession, the wide-spread and lasting exercise of the virtue which the inspired Apostle denotes as the great mark of the Christian character; but he acquires that moral courage by which, at the call of duty—or of mercy, which is his duty—he learns to despise danger and to meet death, whether it come by the pestilence or by the sword.

With such a basis for our profession, it is lamentable to see how, by a bad system, so many of its members are compelled to take a place inferior to that of the Church or the Bar. Those, however, who for their own small interests advocate such a course, degrading the profession of which they should be the guardians and promoters, will at last be compelled to adopt larger views. The evil will cure itself in time; and the student will do for himself that which he should have been encouraged to do before. The University of Dublin has led the way

in elevating the profession of Surgery, by insisting on an extra-professional education for the Surgical as well as the Medical student. It has sought to do away with the difference of rank between the Medical and Surgical professions; not by lowering the status of the Physician to that of the Surgeon, but by elevating the rank of the Surgeon to that of the Physician. On the co-optation of Surgery into the Academic system, and on the school founded upon these principles, I shall presently dwell. Let me point to the fact that, by a recent regulation of the Army Medical Board, a course of Logics must be attended by those who seek to enter the Medical service. This rule has led to the creation of a Chair of Logics in the Royal College of Surgeons, on which those who are not students in Arts must attend, if they seek to enter the service of the Queen. This rule admits the principle for which the University contends. It has a general as well as a special application; for, if it leads to increased educational rank of the Military Surgeon, that of the Civil Practitioner will follow.

This regulation is due to Dr. Smith, the Director-General of the Army and Ordnance Medical Department, and is to be taken as showing his desire and determination to elevate the rank of the department over which he has been placed. For this, and for the interest which he has taken in the School of Surgery in this University, Dr. Smith has been exposed to attacks in more than one of our periodi-

cals, which have been discreditable in the last degree. The style and animus of these productions are such that further notice of them is not to be desired. But I wish to say in this Hall, that no man can have a more thorough perception of the causes which have acted in depressing the Medical Service of the Army than the present Director-General. And I know his determination not only to serve his country through evil and good report—by providing for her devoted soldiers that care which a liberal education can alone afford, but by using, for the elevation of his order, the irresistible force of an ample extra-professional education.

It has been urged upon the Board, that the numbers attending the Medical classes would be increased, and that certain advantages would result to the student, if the degree of Doctor of Medicine were conferred without requiring the education in Arts. We may admit the first of these propositions, but not the last. If the degree in Medicine were given without Arts, it would be at once degraded. Our Bachelors and Doctors of Medicine would be placed in an inferior rank to those of Oxford or Cambridge. The step would be nothing but a yielding to the system of exclusive education, so injurious to our real interests. Do entirely away with the Arts education for the Physician, and you at once remove his claim to be placed on an equal footing with the Clergyman or the Barrister. It is many years ago that this matter was so pressed upon the Board,—

I grieve to say it, by some who should have had larger views,—that it consented to give, not a Degree, but a Diploma in Medicine on a purely Medical qualification and an examination. This rule, objectionable from its creating two orders of Physicians, was in a few years rescinded, and since then no diploma whatever has been given by the University unless the candidate had qualified as a Bachelor of Arts.

Let me here draw your attention to some of the existing regulations of the University, which have been framed with the view of facilitating the Professional student in taking his degree in Arts.

By the regulations I allude to, arrangements have been made, exempting Professional students from certain portions of the course in Arts, on the condition of their attending, in the Professional Schools, such an amount of lectures as is considered equivalent to the parts of the course in Arts remitted. These regulations apply to students of Divinity, Physic, Law, and Engineering. Thus, in the Junior Sophister year, Medical students may keep terms by attending the lectures, or answering at the examination in Science only; but to obtain this privilege the student must be matriculated in Medicine, and must be in actual attendance on the full courses of the Medical Session, necessary for completing an *annus medicus*.

In the Senior Sophister year, the Professional students may keep terms either in lectures or at

examinations, by studying any one of the three voluntary courses, provided they have complied with the rules which bind them in their Junior Sophister year; and at the Degree Examination, the privilege is only allowed to such as have completed full attendance on lectures, during the Medical Session preceding the Michaelmas term of their Senior Sophister year.

In the last place, it has been provided that the Student of Medicine, that is, he who is on the books of the University as a Student of Arts, and who has also matriculated in Medicine, is permitted to attend on the four University Medical Professors for the courses qualifying for the Bachelor of Medicine degree, without any additional fee. The certificate cannot be granted until after the degree in Medicine is conferred. The student, however, should he require such a certificate to obtain any other degree, diploma, or license, may obtain it on paying the Professor's fee. This arrangement, which is calculated to encourage the Medical student in taking his education in Arts, has yet another advantage, for it places a large portion, at least, of the Examining Board above the charge of favouritism. For, if it could have any effect on the Professor, it would be to make him more stringent in his examination. This arrangement does not apply to the Professorships on the foundation of Sir Patrick Dun, nor to those of Midwifery or Medical Jurisprudence, for this reason, that the College of Physicians have no

funds wherewith to indemnify the Professors for the fees of the Students in Arts. Indeed the two last of these Professorships remain unendowed. But if the College of Physicians, who, by Act of Parliament, are united with the University in the government of the School of Physic, had command of the funds proceeding from Sir Patrick Dun's bequest—as that great benefactor of our profession intended they should have had—these things would not now exist. We should not see the important Chairs of the Practice of Medicine, *Materia Medica*, or the Institutes of Medicine, so miserably endowed, nor those of Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence without any endowment at all. These, and many other matters which call for amendment, result from the provisions of the Act of Parliament, the 40th of George the Third, chap. 84, an Act, of which I feel compelled to say, that it would be difficult for human ingenuity to produce a more effectual means of damaging the School of Medicine.

This Act is the great incubus of the Irish School of Medicine. It disposes of the funds of Sir Patrick Dun's estate in a manner which is plainly a perversion of his intentions, which were to endow the Professorial Chairs. It compels a mode of election to the very Chairs which it has stripped, objectionable in almost every step of its process, and alike damaging to the elected and the electors. It indirectly limits the choice of candidates to a very small circle. It virtually deprives the Univer-

sity of any influence in the election of five of the Professors in the School of Physic. It provides a miserable endowment for three of the existing Chairs, and leaves two others unendowed, unless in the event of a most improbable contingency. It acts in removing the most distinguished members from the College, by declaring that, once a Professor, the individual can have no further voice in its regulation or government. It has, after giving a wretched pittance for three Chairs and for the Library of the College, handed over all the surplus funds for the endowment of an hospital in a city where there were already many hospitals, and gives the administration of these funds to a Board which has no connexion with the School of Medicine. All this was ostensibly to provide for clinical education; and, to crown the whole, the Act provides that the Professors of Anatomy, Chemistry, and Botany, should, in their turn, become teachers of Clinical Medicine,—an arrangement so faulty that it has now become almost obsolete. In justice to the College of Physicians, it is to be stated that they have not been insensible to the evils of this Act. During the viceroyalty of the Earl of Clarendon, the enlightened Chancellor of the Queen's University, I formed one of a deputation to his Excellency, which was headed by Dr. Collins, then President of the College, when these matters were laid before him, and I have reason to believe that, had the College been in a position to proceed as in the case of a private Act of Parliament, we

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should have had Lord Clarendon's sanction and assistance for the repeal of this Act. But, whether the funds of Sir Patrick Dun's estate are ever wholly, or in part, restored to their proper purpose, it is clear that, if the system of compulsory attendance on the hospital is to continue, the Institution should be made a general hospital. Medicine cannot be taught in a purely Medical hospital, any more than Surgery in a purely Surgical one. Such a change is demanded by the requirements of the time; and so strongly has the Board felt the insufficiency of attendance on a purely Medical hospital to afford proper instruction to the Bachelor of Physic, that they have made it imperative on the candidate that he should produce certificates of attendance on a general hospital, as well as on that of Sir Patrick Dun,—thus doing all that they could do, to obviate the effects of a system to which, by law, they were compelled to submit.

The last regulation for the benefit of the student to which I shall refer, is that by which the President and Censors of the College of Physicians are associated with the Professors of the School of Physic in the examination for the Bachelor of Medicine degree. This is intended to save the candidate for the license of the College from the necessity of a second examination. The regulation, which is a recent one, might be advantageously modified; so as to leave it optional to the candidate to be examined by the single or double Board.

I have not endeavoured to prove to you that the School of Physic is in all respects unexceptionable. On the contrary, I and my brother Professors are of opinion that it is still susceptible of reforms. Some of these are indicated in the report of the Royal Commission appointed to examine into the government, teaching, and discipline of the University. Others are still under consideration. The method of examination might be improved by confining the terminal examination to practical subjects, and by establishing examination at an earlier period for the elementary courses.

The method of election to the Professorships on the foundation of Sir Patrick Dun should be altered, and it is greatly to be desired that Medical Honors in the University should be established. At present, class prizes are awarded by the University Professors, and they are most valuable. But we should have higher Honors. These might be of three kinds:—

First. Exhibitions or Scholarships, to be awarded for proficiency in the collateral sciences, such as Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, and Botany. These might be attainable to junior students, and continue for two or three years, as the case might be. In the next place, we should, I conceive, adopt the system of attaching a mark of honour to the names of the best, and perhaps the second best answerers for the Medical degree. This is done in the University of Edinburgh, and that simple asterisk attached to

the name on the University roll would remain as a precious and a permanent record of distinction and success. Lastly, the establishment of a gold, and perhaps a silver medal, to be competed for by the candidate Bachelor of Medicine, on an examination which should embrace all the higher departments of Medicine, is greatly to be desired. I need not say to this auditory, that the Gold Medal of the University would pass current over the world as one of the most honourable testimonials, the most unexceptionable recommendations, that any young Physician or Surgeon could possess.

It has been suggested that, in the examination for Honors in Science, some of the subjects comprised in the Medical Curriculum might be advantageously introduced,—for example, Human and Comparative Anatomy; Chemistry, and Botany. There can be no question that such an arrangement would be beneficial, but I doubt much if it would be any great boon to the Medical Class in the University, because the students in this Class have their time so fully occupied, that they could not afford to read the remaining portions of the Honor Course; and it would not accomplish what is so much to be desired, namely, the establishment of Honors exclusively Medical, which the successful candidate could, as it were, carry with him as a mark of distinction into his after life.

Let me now lay before you the steps which have

been taken by the University to extend the benefits of general education to the Surgical as well as to the Medical student. From an early period Surgery has been excluded, or been but feebly recognised, in the Academic system of the old Universities. It was recognised in Oxford and Cambridge so far as that a diploma on the performance of certain exercises was conferred for proficiency in the art. But it seems to have been placed in a position far inferior to that of Medicine. This was obviously the result of the state of knowledge at the time. But in nothing is the real nature and function of a University better seen, than in its being on the one hand the reflector, and, on the other, the promoter of the knowledge of the day. To the honour of our University be it said, that for nearly a hundred and fifty years Surgery has been made a qualification for its degree in Medicine. In the year 1711 the joint Professorship of Anatomy and Surgery was established, since which time the candidate has had to attend on the Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, and to be examined by him.

Up to the year 1848, Anatomy and Surgery were taught by the one Professor. The advance of knowledge in both branches had been such that it became desirable to separate the Chairs of Anatomy and Surgery; and I am proud to say that Professor Harrison was an earnest advocate of the new arrangement, although it entailed a pecuniary loss to himself.

A separate Chair of Surgery was founded, and Dr. Smith, who had already done so much for Irish surgery, was elected into it.

I now come to the negotiation commenced by the Board with the view of establishing a fair reciprocity between the University and Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland,—a body of which I wish to speak with all the respect due for the great services its members have rendered to our common profession. For the full history of this transaction, and for the correspondence connected with it, I refer you to the Report of the University Commission. And here I shall content myself with giving a succinct view of the question at issue.

Up to the year 1829, the certificates of the School of Physic were admitted by the College of Surgeons as qualifications for its license. The College of Surgeons, soon after receiving their new charter, enacted a By-Law, by which the certificates of all Colleges and Universities that refused the certificates of its Professors were excluded, but which reserved a discretionary power to admit candidates whose curriculum of study might be considered as equivalent to, though not in strict conformity with, the regulations of the College. Under this power the certificates of the School of Physic were received, but, after some time, even this indirect recognition was withdrawn; and while the certificates from every private school in Dublin were admitted, those

of the School of Physic, established by several Acts of Parliament under the University and the College of Physicians, were ignored, the student being the principal sufferer. To do a great and patent wrong requires hardihood, and this quality was not wanting. Two of the most distinguished Professors in the School of the College of Surgeons had been elected into the University Chairs of Anatomy and Chemistry, and the lectures of these gentlemen, who were respectively the first in their departments in this country, were refused by the very body which had originally selected them to fill the corresponding Chairs in its own School.

The effect of these proceedings was to enforce a double attendance and a double expense on the University Medical student, who sought to obtain the license of the College of Surgeons; and on the other hand to impede the Surgical student in his desire to take the Medical degree, so that the one had to go to Scotland to get his degree in Medicine, whilst the other was forced to repair to London, Edinburgh, or Glasgow, to obtain his Surgical qualification.

With the view of removing these evils, the Board made a Decree, the carrying out of which was to depend on the consent of the College of Surgeons to return to their original system. It embodied three propositions, which were carefully considered and drawn up in good faith, and with the view of advancing the cause of liberal education :—

“ 1. Any of the courses required for the degree of M. B., being also courses required for the licentiatehip in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, may be attended in the school of that College, provided the student attend also an *annus medicus* in the School of Physic.

“ 2. Licentiates of the College of Surgeons in Ireland, being graduates in Arts of the University, will be admitted to examination for the Degree of M. B., on attending an *annus medicus* in the School of Physic.

“ This regulation is not to take effect unless the College of Surgeons will agree to a regulation equivalent to the following:

“ 3. Bachelors of Medicine of the University will be admitted to examination for the licentiatehip of the College of Surgeons, provided they exhibit certificates of having attended two courses in the School of that College, or in any school recognised by that College.”

These propositions were answered by the College in such a manner as to break off the negotiation. The Council declared its anxiety to encourage the education in Arts, but it consented to receive the certificates of the School of Physic only in the case of the graduate, and it refused to recognise the teaching of the same Professors for students who were not in Arts ; and again for those who, although their names were on the books of the University, had not yet taken their degree. This concession—the word is theirs, not mine—was only to be granted on the full recognition of their certificates.

With respect to the third regulation and the equivalent which the Council was asked to grant, the Council refused to entertain it, until the time should arrive when all the pupils of the College of Sur-

geons, and all the pupils of the University Professors, should be admissible to examination for Medical degrees, that is to say, full reciprocity was refused by the College of Surgeons, unless the University lowered the standard of its degrees by dispensing with the education in Arts,—so that the conclusion arrived at by the Council of the College of Surgeons was, that the teaching of the School of Physic Professors was to be taken as valid in the case of A, but not valid in that of B or of C; while the proposition, by which the license of the College was honoured, its position as an educational body admitted, and the lectures of every private school in Dublin recognised, was not entertained. Surely, if the teaching of the profession was good for the graduate in Arts, it should be equally valid for the undergraduate, to say nothing of the student who was not in Arts at all.

I will not say, that in these proceedings the Council of the College of Surgeons have acted illegally; for I do not pretend to judge of the powers given to them by their charter. But it is clear that they have misapprehended their position, which is, or ought to be, that of trustees for the public safety. Looking at the question in this light, we should conclude that incompetency alone should be the ground of disqualification. Here it is necessary to state that, notwithstanding the refusal of reciprocity as conveyed in the correspondence of the College of Surgeons with the University, that body has since

received as qualifications the certificates of the School of Physic in the case of a graduate in Arts. But this regulation still leaves the School of Physic in a position inferior to that of the private Schools, inasmuch as the College of Surgeons refuses to recognise two important classes of its students. On the surface it may appear as if the College of Surgeons was now the liberal, and the University the illiberal, body. But the University is a joint head of the School of Physic, and will not submit to any slight upon that School by which it is placed in a position inferior to that of the private schools in Dublin.

The University, having done all that was possible to remove these great evils, determined to use the powers of its charter, and to establish a complete School of Surgery within these walls. A University Court of Examiners was appointed, and a Professor of Surgery, whose duties were to be analogous to those of the Regius Professor of Physic, was elected. A curriculum of study equal to, and in some most essential points superior to, that of the College of Surgeons, was laid down; and since then the University School of Surgery has flourished.

The Course of Education required for the Diploma in Surgery will be found in the following Regulations:—

“The Diploma in Surgery may be obtained by such Students as are matriculated in Medicine, and have completed at least one year in Arts, on the following conditions:—

“1. To complete one year in Arts it shall be necessary to have

answered at least one Examination, subsequent to the Junior Freshman year; or to have completed the Junior Freshman year only by passing the Michaelmas Examination of that year, and keeping one previous Term, either by Lectures or by Examination.

“ ‘ 2. Students who have not passed an Examination in the Senior Freshman year will be required to attend one Course of Lectures in Logic. Students who have not passed the Junior Sophister year of the Undergraduate Course will be required to attend one Course of Lectures on Mechanics with the Assistant to the Professor of Natural Philosophy.

“ ‘ 3. Students so qualified will be admitted to Examination for the Diploma in Surgery, as soon as they shall have completed the prescribed Curriculum.

“ ‘ 4. This Curriculum shall extend over a period of four years, and shall comprise attendance upon the following Course of Lectures in the School of Physic in Ireland:—

“ ‘ Anatomy and Physiology, . . .	Three Courses.
Demonstrations and Dissections, . . .	Three Courses.
Theory and Practice of Surgery, . . .	Three Courses.
Practice of Medicine,	One Course.
Chemistry,	One Course.
Materia Medica,	One Course.
Midwifery,	One Course.
Practical Chemistry,	} One Course each, of three months' duration.
Botany,	
Medical Jurisprudence,	

“ ‘ Four of the above named Courses, together with a Course of Demonstrations and Dissections, may be attended in any School of Medicine recognised by the Board.

“ ‘ Also, attendance for three Sessions, each of nine months' duration, on the practice of any of the following hospitals, together with attendance on the Clinical Lectures on Medicine and Surgery there delivered:—

“ ‘ 1. Richmond, Whitworth, and Hardwicke Hospitals; 2.

Meath Hospital; 3. Steevens' Hospital; 4. Jervis-street Infirmary; 5. City of Dublin Hospital; 6. Mercer's Hospital; 7. St. Vincent's Hospital.

“ ‘Of the Courses of Lectures which are of six months' duration, not more than three can be attended during any one Session.

“ ‘4. Candidates for the Diploma, who have complied with the foregoing Regulations, must pass an Examination before a Court of Examiners, consisting of the Regius Professor of Physic, the University Professor of Surgery, and the Professors of Anatomy, Surgery, Chemistry, Midwifery, and Botany, of the School of Physic.

“ ‘The Examination of each Candidate will be divided into two parts, one of which shall be devoted to Anatomy and Physiology, Surgical Anatomy, Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Toxicology; the other to the Theory and Practice of Surgery, Operative Surgery, the Practice of Medicine, and Midwifery.

“ ‘5. Candidates for the Diploma must submit their Certificates and Testimonials of qualification to the Regius Professor of Physic and to the Professor of Surgery, who shall sign the Chart necessary to be laid before the Senior Lecturer and Registrar, previous to the issuing of the *Liceat ad Examinandum* to the Professors.

“ ‘A Fee of £2 10s. is charged on taking the Diploma.

“ ‘The following Courses of Lectures and of Clinical Study are recommended to Students intending to qualify for the public service in the above departments:—

“ ‘1. Ophthalmic Surgery.

“ ‘2. Military Surgery.

“ ‘3. Pathological Anatomy.

“ ‘4. Comparative Anatomy and Natural History.

“ ‘5. Attendance in an Hospital for the Treatment of the Insane.’

“ ‘The shortest period in which a Student can obtain the Diploma in Surgery is four years. The total amount of Fees to be

paid from the commencement of his Course until he has obtained it, exclusive of the Fees for his year's Course in Arts, is about £75, or Guineas. This will vary slightly according as a Student takes more or less of the Courses which are free to him during the time when he is on the College Books."

Of my colleagues in the Board of Examiners,—the University Professor of Surgery, Dr. Cusack; the Professor of Surgery in the School of Physic, Dr. Smith; the Professor of Anatomy, Dr. Harrison; the Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Apjohn; of Botany, Dr. Allman, since translated to the University of Edinburgh; and the Professor of Midwifery, Dr. Montgomery,—I fearlessly say that it would be difficult indeed to exhibit a body of men more individually distinguished. The full and complete legality of the diploma has been declared by the most eminent legal authorities in this country and in England—including the law-officers of the Crown. Our licentiates have been admitted into the service of the Army, the Navy, and the Poor-Law Commission; and I am proud to say, that on the late examination for appointments in the Medical Service of the East India Company, two of our University Surgeons, and two of our Bachelors of Medicine, were successful; one of them, indeed, taking a high place. As yet the diploma has not been obtained or sought for by any candidate who had not graduated in Arts and Medicine; and I have little doubt that the Heads of the University will carry out this great reform, and deter-

mine on conferring full degrees in Surgery, having an equal rank with those in Medicine; which require that the candidate shall have completed his education and graduated in Arts.

This movement, calculated to provide the public with a more highly educated order of Practitioners, and to confer Academic rank, for the first time, on the Surgical profession, and to elevate its status and its influence, will be followed by other Universities; and that the public service will be thereby a gainer, and the influence of the profession at large augmented and preserved, no right-thinking man can for a moment doubt.

But there is another result, it may be a remote one, which this educational movement points to—I mean the getting rid of the corporate distinctions in our profession. I am not about to discuss the many questions of Medical Reform, but I ask of you who are to enter the profession as Physicians or as Surgeons, or as both, it matters not,—you, who will form part of the Medical community, who will act as its future lawgivers, to consider to what is attributable that want of political station, of admitted influence, which is so deplored. On whom does the fault rest? Is it with the Government? Is it with the public? Is it in the preponderance of the aristocratic feelings of the country? It has been attributed to all these. Yet, have we been faultless? Have we read the signs of the times, and perceived our own interests? What, I will ask, can we expect,

so long as our selfishness and blindness keep us a divided body? The corporate distinctions in our profession are at the root of many of the evils we complain of. While they exist we shall be, in our position towards the State, weak and uninfluential; in our position as a scientific and educational body, unhealthy. These corporate divisions sow the seeds of jealousy, and create a smothered dislike among us. They weaken our influence in the State, and interfere with our powers of protection to our members, and they retard the progress of enlightened education. It is fit that there should be Physicians and Surgeons. And individual tastes or aptitudes will lead men to adopt this or that line of practice. But Medicine and Surgery are one,—in principle and practice inseparably connected. They are based on the same foundation—for Pathology teaches us that there are none of the so-called Surgical diseases that have not their counterparts in visceral and constitutional affections. Why, then, should corporate distinctions, only fruitful in mischief, be permitted to exist?

If I have succeeded in convincing any of you, I beseech of you, not only to bear these things in mind, but to labour for the cause of union, as a great step towards the advancement of our profession in rank and power. I do not urge these views now for the first time, or to serve a purpose. Long before I received the distinction of an honorary degree from this University, I advocated these opinions in public ;

and I venture to say, that the time is fast coming when we shall find ourselves members of a powerful, because a united, Profession.

Gentlemen, Medicine is essentially a progressive science, and avails itself of almost every branch of knowledge in its progress. It has been objected to Medicine, that it is not an exact science, and a slur is attempted to be cast on it by those in whose minds the ideas of the inexact and the erroneous, or at least the uncertain, are confounded.

Medicine is an inexact science ; but this is no reproach. By this very character it enters into fellowship with the most noble of human inquiries,—with those which have for their object the relations of the created to the Creator,—the future state of man, his moral and his intellectual nature.

Remember what it is that constitutes the bases of the exact sciences,—number, force, weight, form, arrangement, chemical constitution, and so on.

The mathematician, ascending from the simplest idea, can develope new powers almost indefinitely. The astronomer measures and weighs the heavenly bodies ; and the physical philosopher, dealing with light, and heat, and electrical action, can bring either Pure Mathematics or Geometry so to bear in his researches, as to enable him, not only to explain, but to predict. Thus, our own Hamilton predicted conical refraction ; our own M'Cullagh was in the path to discover it by another method ; and Leverrier and Adams declared the existence of a planet which

eye had never seen. The chemist has analysis and synthesis at his command; and even the anatomist and geologist have their constants to start from. They have little more to do than to observe, to reckon, and to compare. They deal with what has been, and their principles, once determined, are little likely to be disturbed.

But we have to do with something which cannot be measured or weighed; something, too, in which experiment can only be used within narrow bounds,—an element whose nature is yet unknown, fleeting in its action, and every day producing new combinations, not merely new, because they were never observed before, but really new, as appearing for the first time.

All this will help us to understand why we have not yet a theory of Medicine. But let not our zeal be therefore diminished. Let us firmly believe that, at the appointed time, when the required amount of facts have been faithfully observed and recorded, they will, by one of the great properties of truth, crystallize spontaneously into a system and a law.

In the mean time, let us never forget that every connexion that can be established between the mathematical and physical sciences and Medicine will impart to it more or less of certainty. Think what has been done for Medicine by the introduction of Physical Diagnosis. See how it has increased the confidence of the public in the well-educated Phy-

sician and Surgeon, by diminishing so much the chances of difference of opinion as to the nature and seat of disease. Again, the application of numbers to determine the value of Medical observations has done much in establishing the true laws of disease; and I cannot omit referring to the result of microscopic researches in contributing to certainty in our pathological investigations. It was long ago proposed by Graves, that, with the view of discovering the laws of epidemics, Medical Observatories should be established in various parts of the world, in which reliable observations should be made, not only on the history and character of the disease, but on all the co-existing conditions of temperature, of chemical and magnetic action, and the hygrometric and meteorological states. This great idea has since been put forward by Humboldt, who, in speaking of epidemic diseases, observes that we shall probably remain in ignorance of their nature and causes, until all the laws of terrestrial magnetism and meteorology are determined. What better argument could I use in favour of a scientific education?

Gentlemen, I have in this Lecture alluded to but a few of the causes which have tended to retard the progress of Medicine; but there is, in the very nature of Medical Science, a power and a virtue which will cause it to triumph over all those influences which an unenlightened system has brought to bear upon it. A time will come when it will take its proper place, and what that place is to be, we can

anticipate without difficulty and without presumption. The physical and moral natures of man are mysteriously and inseparably united: and if to save the erring soul, and to elevate the moral condition of man, was thought worthy of a special revelation, can we doubt that the science which has for its object the well-being of man in his physical state, which is so intimately mixed up with his mental and spiritual life, will not yet occupy a foremost place? Let us not, then, be disheartened; remember that the human family is still young upon the earth, so young that not a monumental inscription of one of us has been yet written on any of the mighty tombstones with which Nature has overspread the earth. Let us have an unshaken belief in the ultimate harmonizing of the truths of religion and of science,—a harmony which, at this moment, doubtless, exists, if we could but see it; and let us further believe that when those influences which enslave the minds and the bodies of men have faded away before God's light, we shall see our science taking a foremost rank, only inferior to that which deals with man's future existence and man's future hopes.

THE END.

